



OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2009

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Two Arrested for Woods Arson in Hancock County

Hattiesburg, MS—On January 15, 2009, two men from Hancock County were arrested and each charged with one count of felony woods arson. Christopher Harice Cuevas and Kyle Joseph Cameron, both 19 and from the Standard Community in Hancock County, were arrested following an investigation by the Mississippi Forestry Commission's fire law investigators Scott Miles, Brandon Hendry and Richie Atkinson.

The woods arson fire occurred on January 13, 2009, on Standard Cemetery Road near Kiln, MS. The Forestry Commission and the Hancock County Volunteer Fire Department were dispatched to the fire and contained it at 1.5 acres. Investigators Miles, Hendry, and Atkinson conducted an origin and cause determination at the fire scene and also collected information from a witness. On January 15 both Cuevas and Cameron were arrested and charged with one count of felony woods arson. The Hancock County Sheriff's Department also assisted in this case.

In Mississippi, the penalty for felony woods arson is, upon conviction, sentenced to the state penitentiary for not more than two years nor less than one year, or be fined not less than \$200 nor more than \$1,000, or both at the discretion of the court.

Please report any suspicious behavior in regard to a woods fire by calling the Mississippi Forestry Commission's Woods Arson Hotline at 1-800-240-5161. Information leading to the arrest and conviction of a woods arsonist can be rewarded up to \$2,500.

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The Mississippi Forestry Commission asks that you ***THINK TWICE Before You Do Any Outdoor burning! Don't Burn on Windy Days because Carelessness Causes Wildfires. Check for local burn bans at www.mfc.state.ms.us***